



The Regional Water

Authority Mission:

To serve and represent regional water supply interests and assist RWA members with protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources.

Member Agencies

California-American Water Company
 Carmichael Water District
 Citrus Heights Water District
 Del Paso Manor Water District
 Fair Oaks Water District
 Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water Service
 Folsom, city of
 Fruitridge Vista Water Company
 Orange Vale Water Company
 Placer County Water Agency
 Rancho Murieta CSD
 Roseville, city of
 Rio Linda/Elverta CWD
 Sacramento, city of
 Sacramento Suburban Water District
 San Juan Water District
 Southern California Water Company

Member News

Effective January 15, California-American Water Company purchased the water and wastewater assets of Citizens Utilities. The 185,000 people formerly served by Citizens Utilities are now served by California-American.

Effective February 1, Northridge and Arcade water districts merged to become Sacramento Suburban Water District.

Effective November 15, 2001, Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water Works changed its name to Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water Service.

RWA Vies for \$22 Million in Grants

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) in December submitted a \$22 million grant application to the California Department of Water Resources designed to bring in substantial infrastructure funding for a number of regional projects.

The "Groundwater Storage Program Construction Grant" would support 11 proposed projects to further develop the region's conjunctive use program, originally specified in the landmark Water Forum Agreement and detailed by the Regional Water Master Plan, American River Basin Cooperating Agencies and Sacramento Groundwater Authority.

"The proposed conjunctive use program outlined in the grant application places our region at the forefront of implementing innovative, locally-based water resource solutions that provide local, regional and statewide water supply benefits," said Marshall Davert of Montgomery, Watson, Harza, whose firm prepared the massive 3,500-page grant package.

Projects proposed in the grant application include an expansion of a surface water treatment plant, water transmission system

improvements (including pipelines, a pump station and an above-ground water storage tank for flow equalization) and groundwater extraction wells.

Nine RWA members made the grant application possible: Arcade, Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, Northridge and San Juan water districts, Placer County Water Agency and the cities of Folsom, Roseville and Sacramento.

The Regional Water Authority expects to hear grant application results in June.

"RWA is about bringing value to the region, and our first formal project aims to do just that. Individually, we stand little chance of receiving this type of funding. Collectively, we have a promising conjunctive use program of statewide significance."

— RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler

What is conjunctive use?

Conjunctive use is the coordinated management of surface water and groundwater supplies to increase the yield of both. The conjunctive use concept is intended to increase total supplies and enhance water supply reliability.

Plecker Named Water Statesperson of the Year

Rich Plecker, Fair Oaks Water District general manager and chair of the former Regional Issues Committee (RIC), received the first annual "Water Statesperson of the Year" award at the December 11 RWA holiday social.

"It means a great deal to me to be the first recipient of this prestigious award," Plecker said. "It means even more to be recognized by my peers and the award's patron, Lyle Hoag, who has patiently mentored me for years. I am truly honored to work with the men and women who keep water flowing in the greater Sacramento region."

Sponsored by RWA executive committee member Lyle Hoag, the annual award recognizes successful regional cooperative efforts and consensus actions in the water supply industry. Awardees are selected for their specific timely achievements in building successful water supplier alliances in the RWA service area.

"Rich Plecker was by far the most qualified candidate for the award," nominating committee Chair Bob Churchill said. "His leadership and stewardship throughout the RIC process, which involved countless hours beyond his normal duties, more than qualified him to be selected as the award's first recipient."

Plecker received a commemorative plaque and his name is inscribed on a perpetual trophy, which is displayed at the RWA office.

Also recognized at the event were:

- 2001 Sacramento Metropolitan Water Authority (SMWA) Board of Directors and Chair Jay O'Brien
- 2001 Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) Board of Directors and Chair Kerri Howell



Bob Churchill presents the first annual "Water Statesperson of the Year" award to Rich Plecker.

- former RWA administrator Sandra Thomas, who saw organization through its formative years
- newly elected SGA Chair Byron Buck and Vice Chair Rob Roscoe
- new RWA Administrative Services Manager Nancy Egger

"It is fitting that we are having this year-end celebration — because it has been an historic and eventful year for progress on regional water issues," RWA Executive Director Ed Winkler said at the event.

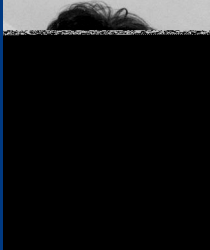
"You have developed an outstanding model for regional planning, stakeholder involvement, consensus-based processes and local leadership for the rest of us to copy."

— Naser Bateni of the Department of Water Resources, who delivered the holiday social's keynote address



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Introducing Nancy Egger, Administrative Services Manager

The Regional Water Authority in December welcomed Nancy Egger as administrative services manager.

Egger's experience makes her uniquely suited for her new job and includes positions with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the California Resources Agency.

Egger was a regional coordinator for ACWA for six years, working with water providers throughout the state, including many RWA members. She served as liaison between the association and water entities and helped develop and administer ACWA's outreach program. She also worked regularly with ACWA's board of directors planning special events and regional programs.

At the California Resources Agency, Egger worked closely with the Department of Water Resources, CALFED and the governor's office in California and Washington, DC.

For the Regional Water Authority, Egger's responsibilities are diverse, ranging from database development and accounting to the unique challenges of working with two boards of directors.

Already, the Regional Water Authority feels like home, Egger said. "I can't tell you how much I really enjoy working here."

E-mail RWA Administrative Services Manager Nancy Egger at nancy@concourse.net.



EWA Update

The Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) is nearing agreement with CALFED's Environmental Water Account (EWA) for the sale of 10,000 acre-feet of water in 2002.

The water will be made available through a one-year conjunctive use pilot project. SGA is facilitating the project on behalf of five member agencies (Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, Northridge and San Juan Water districts and the city of Sacramento), which will use existing facilities, water rights and contract entitlements.

Under the proposed project, Citrus Heights and Fair Oaks water districts and the city of Sacramento will extract and use 10,000 acre-feet of groundwater, forgoing a portion of their rights to treated surface water. By doing this, an equal volume of surface water will be available to EWA for use in Folsom Reservoir, the Lower American River and the Delta.

A key goal of this one-year pilot is to further develop the institutional and contractual mechanisms that will be necessary to implement a regional conjunctive use program consistent with the Water Forum agreement.

The SGA-EWA agreement is contingent upon necessary environmental documentation, which is expected to be complete in early 2002.

SGA Grant Successes

During the last few months of 2001, the Sacramento Groundwater Authority received commitments for more than \$900,000 from state and federal agencies to support local programs.

| Amount | Agency | Purpose |
|-----------|----------------|---|
| \$450,000 | DWR (ISI) | Environmental Water Account pilot studies |
| \$60,000 | USBR | Environmental Water Account pilot studies |
| \$120,000 | USCOE | SGA Database management system |
| \$85,000 | DWR (ISI) | SGA Database management system |
| \$100,000 | DWR (Prop. 13) | Rio Linda/Natomas conjunctive use pilot study |
| \$100,000 | DWR (Prop. 13) | City of Roseville water reclamation project |

Regional Water Efficiency Program

The Regional Water Authority is poised to embark on a new regional water efficiency program.

Building on the successful work of the 40-year-old Sacramento Area Water Works Association (SAWWA) conservation committee, the \$260,000 program calls for an expansion of activities designed to help area water providers fulfill Water Forum best management practices (BMPs).

"This program is very exciting," said Program Manager Charlie Pike. "Implementation will require substantial work, but it will also bring significant benefits to RWA members and the Sacramento region."

The Regional Water Efficiency Program will offer two tiers of services: Core activities will serve as the fundamental building blocks necessary for implementing the BMPs and will include public information, school education, program marketing coordination, grant applications and technical assistance.

In addition, agencies can choose from subscription activities according to organizational and customer needs. These could include landscape irrigation surveys, marketing partnerships with landscape retailers, training for staff and customers, pilot projects, leak detection surveys and report preparation.

The program is expected to draw on former SAWWA conservation committee participants by incorporating their expertise and enthusiasm into the Regional Water Efficiency Project Committee, which will provide guidance to the program manager.

The California Department of Water Resources is now accepting grant applications to support local, cost-effective capital outlay water efficiency projects. Nine million dollars is available and an additional amount may be available from DWR for a broader range of projects. The application deadline for both categories is March 1. For more information about RWA coordinated applications, contact Regional Water Efficiency Program Manager Charlie Pike at (916) 967-7692.

